

MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008, 2:00 P.M.
Room W020, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Greg Bell, Co-Chair
 Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, Co-Chair
 Sen. Brent Goodfellow
 Rep. Mel Brown
 Rep. Brad Daw
 Rep. John Dougall
 Rep. Kay McIff
 Rep. Curt Webb
 Rep. Chris Johnson
 Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
 Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Absent: Sen. Curtis Bramble
 Sen. Dan Eastman
 Rep. Ron Bigelow
 Rep. David Clark

Staff Present: Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
 Patrick Lee, Fiscal Analyst
 Karen C. Allred, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Ryan Thomas, President, College of Eastern Utah
Emily Dunn, Student Body President, College of Eastern Utah
Rick White, President, Utah College of Applied Technology
Dr. Mike Peterson, Executive Director, Utah Education Network
Ray Timothy, Superintendent, Park City School District
Jim Stewart, Utah Education Network
Dr. Laura Hunter, Chief Corporate Officer, Utah Education Network
Representative Ronda Menlove, Vice Provost, Utah State University
Mike Bouwhuis, Campus President, Davis Applied Technology Center

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. **Call to Order** — Committee Co-Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 2:13 pm.
2. **Institutional Presentations:**

College of Eastern Utah

Ryan Thomas, President, College of Eastern Utah introduced Kevin Walthers, Vice President, College of Eastern Utah and several students from the College. A handout was distributed to the committee. The College of Eastern Utah is the smallest and least expensive institution in Utah. Most of the students come from a four-county area surrounding the College but the College recruits from around the state. CEU is located in a rural region that is largely dependent on extractive industries -- especially coal mining and power generation. Its heritage exists because of the commitment of people in the area for higher education. It was begun by a miner who wanted more for his children. CEU is Southeastern Utah's college. It serves 85% of Carbon County's freshmen and sophomores, it enrolls

75% of southeastern Utah's "state college" students, and it mirrors school age population. The College of Eastern Utah has become financially sound. Seven years ago the college was overspending its scholarship budget and had accumulated large deficits. In addition, the State of Utah reduced the budget for the college in 2001. To cut costs, CEU eliminated 10% of its staff and reduced expenses by nearly 20%. While these cost-cutting measures had impacts on enrollment, without cutting the budget CEU would have become insolvent. The financial picture for CEU is now secure, and CEU has maintained a balanced budget for the past six years. The 2007 Legislative General Session brought the greatest increase in the College's history for ongoing funds, and the partnership funds will allow CEU and USU to provide significantly more upper division and graduate programs for local residents in Secondary Education, Business and Natural Resources. CEU has encouraged Concurrent Enrollment in the high schools, however these classes do not count toward CEU's headcount or FTE enrollments, therefore the net result to CEU is that it subsidizes education for those who may never become students. Career and Technical Education is integral to CEU's mission with a third of its students involved in vocational education. CEU's automotive program is ranked as a national top 20 program. The nursing program has added 108 LPN's and 89 RN's in three years, and the success on the Nursing Exams has been over 90 percent. With the merger of the SEATC and the creation of the Western Energy Training Center, over 30,000 hours annually are offered by the college in non-credit programs. The Mine Safety Commission recommends a key role for the College of Eastern Utah through training curriculum. CEU's students graduate at higher rates than the national average for community colleges. CEU serves an important role in educating diverse populations with minorities comprising over 20% of the student population. CEU has traditionally had the highest percentages of ethnically diverse students of any school in the Utah System of Higher Education, largely due to the unique mission of its San Juan Campus, where 55% of the student are Native American. The Title III Grant on the San Juan Campus, which serves first-generation college students and students with poor academic preparation, or limited English proficiency, has been nationally recognized. CEU has received regional and national honors for the academic performance of its athletes. The College of Eastern Utah's growth depends on the funding of the Fine and Performing Arts Center, which would replace the two most dangerous buildings in the state, and would provide an inviting campus to potential students.

Committee Co-Chair Holdaway assumed the Chair.

Utah College of Applied Technology

Rick White, President, Utah College of Applied Technology distributed a handout and introduced the Presidents of the UCAT campuses. Dr. White observed that UCAT was delivering world class career and technical training to communities and preparing people to succeed in a global economy. He has also observed a changing workforce with 90% of jobs providing a wage to sustain a family of 4 requiring some combination of technology skills or associate degree. The majority of Utah citizens do not earn a bachelors degree; many do not want to; they want to be welders, secretaries, machinists and medical assistants, and Utah's economy needs them. UCAT has the potential to become the college of choice for the majority of Utah's citizens who will not earn a bachelor's degree and who want or need technical training. There are 79 UCAT locations, 71 of them are shared or leased sites and 8 of them are state owned sites. Utah College of Applied Technology provides short term intensive training for over 40,000 students per year, 30% are secondary students and 70% are post-secondary or adult students. UCAT gives 86% of USHE certificates and they are awarded in 70 different program areas. UCAT has trained 19,960 employees, served 1,152 companies, and 13% of the total Custom Fit Training is provided by partner institutions: SLCC, Snow College, and CEU. UCAT is the college for the majority, delivering approximately 70 different programs to nearly 60,000 Utahns to help them

ensure their success in life. Seventy-two percent of the students enrolled at UCAT complete the programs and of those, 86% are placed in related jobs and 99% are licensed.

The priorities for UCAT for 2008-09 in ongoing funds are: compensation, faculty and staff retention, mandated costs, Jobs Now Campus Initiatives, priorities and partnerships, and statewide infrastructure. One time requests for 2008-09 are: capital training equipment, replacement of aging IT infrastructure and fiscal system upgrade.

Mike Bouwhuis, Campus President, Davis Applied Technology Center, responded to a question of how to spread the word about new and lesser known programs at the Applied Technology Center. Pres. Bouwhuis said he uses every media source he can, he goes to high school career fairs, the Tehnology Center has its own career fair, he promotes "Student of the Month" in newspapers, billboards and Comcast. He contacts the Governor's office and uses the state experts in that career cluster to get the word out on the state website. Pres. Bouwhuis also has each new student fill out a questionnaire that asks how they found out about the school and the programs, then he uses that information to use the most popular programs for future job fairs.

2. **Jobs Now (Issue Brief UCAT -- 03)**

UCAT Issue Brief 03 is found at the end of tab 3, on page 5. The Utah College of Applied Technology provides occupationally-specific, intensive training for individuals seeking employment by matching training needs with industry needs. The Analyst recommends that \$500,000 be placed on the priority list for the UCAT Jobs Now budget and allowing the UCAT president to distribute the funds among the campuses where the need is demonstrated.

3. **Operations and Maintenance (Issue Brief UCAT -- 01)**

The Analyst recommends the subcommittee place two one-time reductions on its priority list for O&M funding on two UCAT campuses. Funding for O&M was put in the base funding, then taken out on a one-time basis while the building is under construction.

4. **IT Physical Infrastructure (Issue Brief UCAT -- 02)**

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends the Subcommittee prioritize funding for increases in software costs in UCAT information technology. The Analyst recommends the prioritization of ongoing funding for software licensing and ongoing and one time funds for IT equipment replacement.

5. **Emergency Management/Campus Security (Issue Brief UCAT -- 04)**

Systems need to be implemented on each campus to facilitate response time and efforts in the event of an emergency situation. The Analyst recommends the subcommittee prioritize one-time funds to help to minimize harm to students, faculty, and staff as well as damage to the campus.

6. **Capital Training Equipment (Issue Brief UCAT -- 05)**

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends the Subcommittee prioritize a one-time appropriation for the purchase of equipment for the Utah College of Applied Technology. This funding would purchase equipment for the training and instruction of students on all campuses.

7. **Legislative Fiscal Analyst Overview UEN**

Patrick Lee, Fiscal Analyst, distributed a handout to the committee. The Utah Education Network is a partnership of Utah's public and higher education institution that delivers distance learning educational services statewide. Its mission is to "provide the citizens of Utah access to the highest quality, most effective instructional experiences, administrative support services, student services, and teacher resources regardless of location or time." The handout includes four Issue Briefs that will be distributed separately, at another time, to be put in the Budget Book behind tab 17.

8. **Utah Education Network**

Dr. Mike Peterson, Executive Director, Utah Education Network, distributed a handout to the committee. He also distributed a "clicker" for a hands on demonstration of the kinds of technology available in the classroom. This clicker will build a graph of the answers given by the classroom to questions asked.

Co-committee Chair Bell assumed the Chair.

Increasing network capacity has been UEN's top strategic priority for the past several years, and is again in FY 2009. Because of growth in network traffic, the capacity of key backbone circuits must be increased from 1 to 10 gigabits. Network capacity at elementary schools and charter schools need to be increased and a stand-alone high capacity research network needs to be created. UEN is requesting increased funding to provide expanded technology-rich instructional content, expand our Interactive Videoconferencing system, and support key demands in our Enterprise Application services.

Priority 1: Network Infrastructure Improvements. (A) The highest priority FY 2009 funding request of UEN is to selectively increase the capacity of overloaded circuits on the network backbone from 1 to 10 gigabits per second. Because the network infrastructure is already in place to increase bandwidth capacity by 10 times on five overloaded circuits, the cost to the State will be very modest. UEN's ability to keep pace with growing traffic demand requires UEN to immediately increase network backbone capacity of five already overloaded backbone circuits from 1 to 10 gigabits per second. Funding of \$200,000 in one-time funds for equipment and for \$200,000 ongoing expenses for FY 2009 is needed for this project.

(B) For the past 14 years, UEN has had responsibility to provide network and Internet connectivity for secondary schools and college and universities. Historically, local school districts have been responsible to connect elementary schools to the nearest UEN hub. That arrangement has not assured that all elementary schools in the state have the network capacity needed. The school districts have not been able to increase network capacity because projects have been too expensive. Often, pricing they have received from local telecommunications providers has been two to three times higher than bids received by UEN. UEN is requesting on-going funds of \$700,000 a year and one-time funds of \$500,00 for a three year project to upgrade elementary and charter schools.

Ray Timothy, Superintendent, Park City School District, spoke to the committee on the importance of having connectivity for elementary schools to be used for on-line testing, expertise in collaborating with UEN, and daily access to student progress. It is now mission critical to have network capacity in all of the elementary and charter schools.

(C) UEN must build a world-class research network if our research universities are to be active participants in the cyber-infrastructure that is now being built nationally and internationally. Currently, the research community must connect to Internet 2 and National Lambda Rail using the UEN production network. There are compelling research and economic reasons for a separate high capacity, highly reliable bandwidth research network that is independent of the production network UEN manages for public and higher education. UEN is requesting ongoing funds and one-time funds for this project.

Dr. Thomas Howser, Chairman, Utah Infrastructure Project, spoke to the committee on the Research Network Project. Cyber-infrastructure consists of high performance computing, data collection, virtual organization, optical networking necessary to be competitive. Other states have already invested in optical networks.

Jim Stewart, UEN, responding to a question from the committee, explained that going from a one gigabit to 10, bonds multiples of 10 gigs together. It increases capacity 10 times. Converting to 10 gigabits involves changing cards within switches that are operating the network, not changing infrastructure, having the ability to separate research network with production network.

The research network project has three components: add Dense Wave Division Multiplexing capability to connect to Internet 2 and National Lambda Rail; increase network capacity between USU and Level3 and Eccles Broadcast Center; and lease a second fiber link from USU and U of U to the Level3 Point-of-Presence to complete a fiber ring to assure redundancy and hardening of the network links. UEN is requesting ongoing funds and one-time funding for the Research Network Project.

Priority 2: Technology Rich Instructional Content. This request supports statewide licensing of video and technology programs for instruction in high need areas such as mathematics, science, world language, college courses and career preparation. UEN has already built proven delivery systems for this content which are already used extensively by teachers and students, and additional resources will provide statewide access to high quality media for ALL Utah students and teachers in schools and homes. Video assists with student comprehension and retention.

Dr. Laura Hunter, CCO, Utah Education Network, spoke of the need for multimedia for expanding content in high need areas, for every student in school and at home.

Marion Marchant, Reading specialist, UEN spoke that as an educator she uses resources to engage students. She uses UEN's e-media, and when she does so she is taking her students on a mini field trip via ipod and eMedia. E-media is very current, excellent information about almost any subject. In response to a question it was reported that there are about 4,000 films on e-media tied to Utah core. Through eMedia a student can see information rather than read about it.

Co-chair Holdaway resumed the chair.

Funding for FY 2009 is requested to expand multimedia instructions resources available through Pioneer Library, eMedia, and CollegeMedia. This request includes \$500,000 of ongoing revenue for licensing fees for video and computer-based instructional programs and one-time funding of \$320,000 to purchase media rights to course content.

Priority 3: Instructional Video Conferencing Improvements. Higher education institutions in Utah are increasingly embracing the Internet as a tool to support teaching and learning partnerships through distance delivery of academic programs. Higher education institutional distance learning partnerships provide wide access to quality educational opportunities for Utah students statewide by using the UEN IP video system. Video conferencing connects faculty and students in fully interactive teaching and learning relationships that are as effective as face-to-face classes, even though teacher and students may be separated by hundreds of miles. It also allows users to integrate applications such as Power Point, video, and multi-media educational materials over the Web to enhance quality. A technology-related enrollment unduplicated headcount graph showed nearly 9,000 students took advantage of interactive video conferencing in 2007.

Rep. Ronda Menlove, Vice Provost, USU, distributed a handout and spoke to the committee about how successful what she calls Interactive Video, is at USU. It is as close to the actual classroom teaching as possible. It makes it possible for a student on a campus in Logan be taught by a professor at the Uintah Basin campus. IP Video is critical to take course work out to sites across Utah. The delivery methods are Interactive Broadcast (learn via two-way video and two-way audio), Independent Study (earn college credit without attending campus classes) and Online Education (allows students to accelerate their academic progress through interactive courses from their home computers as they would attending classes on campus.)

UEN proposes to replace 4 obsolete Multi-point Control Units and obsolete IP video classroom equipment purchased four years ago with federal grant funds. It is requesting funding to replace obsolete backbone and classroom equipment and add 24 new public education classrooms and equipment and to install videoconferencing equipment in higher education classrooms and administrative conference rooms..

(A) U of U Migration to UEN Course Management Support. UEN hosts a centralized course management system for most Utah System of Higher Education institutions and the Utah Electronic High School, which eliminates expenditures previously paid for hardware, software and technical staff support. Students and faculty rely on the UEN hosted Course Management System to connect via the Internet to each other, their instructors, learning activities, shared research materials, library resources and textbooks. Additional equipment, storage capacity, and redundancy is needed to support the U of U as it migrates to the UEN system.

(B) Richfield Data Center -- Disaster Recovery Improvements. \$380,000 is requested to provide needed storage capacity at the Richfield Data Center to ensure continuity and quick recovery of vital government data for state agencies and educational entities when disaster interrupts normal operating activities.

The total Utah Education Network budget request for all of these projects (staff retention included) totals \$6,000,000 for the FY 2009.

9. **Network Backbone (Issue Brief UEN -- 01)**

Patrick Lee, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recommends the prioritization of one-time and ongoing funds for UEN Network Backbone Enhancement.

10. **High Speed Networks (Issue Brief UEN -- 02)**

Patrick Lee, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recommends the prioritization of one-time appropriation to UEN for upgrades that will provide the Course Management System to the University of Utah.

11. **Content Management (Issue Brief UEN -- 03)**

Patrick Lee, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, prioritizes a one-time appropriation to UEN for providing needed storage capacity at the Richfield Data Center.

12. **Disaster Recovery (Issue Brief UEN -- 04)**

Patrick Lee, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recommends the prioritization of one-time and ongoing funding to UEN for the elementary and charter school network upgrades.

13. **Committee Business**

Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager, distributed a handout to the committee for a preliminary starting point for the committee's prioritization list. It is not in any priority order and it is the committee's responsibility to put an amount with each item. This is just a starting point for the committee to consider for the upcoming Thursday, February 7, meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Dougall moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Minutes were reported by Karen Allred, Secretary.

Sen. Greg Bell, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, Committee Co-Chair